

CORMORANT'S FANCY: FINE CELTIC MUSIC— IRELAND, SCOTLAND, AND THE CELTIC NATIONS



Venues and reviewers characterize Cormorant's Fancy as "spellbinding," "with a knack for gorgeous arrangements." From tenderly passionate love songs to growling soul-stirrers, and from pitch-perfect a cappella to swirling instrumentals blending concertina, fiddle, pennywhistle, guitar, keyboards and bodhrán, Cormorant's Fancy propels audiences into the living Celtic tradition. Their compelling cross-generational lineup unites the past, present and future, so that whether they are stirring the crowd from the festival or concert stage, gracing the parlor, leading the pub in song, or accompanying step dancers, their music rings true. They've been called "the area's most energetic" Celtic band, yet they do it all with finesse! Lead singer Margaret Folkemer is joined by parents Beth and Stephen Folkemer, fiddler Chuck Krepley and young percussionist Ricky Czar. Celtic music is in their blood, their heritage in Ireland's County Down, Clan Donald of the Scottish Isles, Wales and Cornwall. They visit their ancestral homes any chance they get!

Cormorant's Fancy tailors every show to its venue, including high-energy St. Paddy's parties/all-Irish Celebrations, authentic all-Scottish programs including Burns Suppers, fun sing-along events, romantic wedding sets, lively tunes for dancers and celidhs, laid-back restaurant sets, pumped-up pub shows, lovely Celtic Christmas programs, happy New Year's events (Hogmany), engaging school presentations, and Celtic worship services too! Add to these endless combinations of the band's styles. We present a full array of workshops as well.

What will you find at a Cormorant's Fancy show? You'll experience lots of clapping, toe-tapping, and singing along. You'll laugh out loud, and feel a tear in your eye. You'll notice the audience hanging on every word of an unaccompanied ballad and cheering for a rousing anthem. You'll see Meg transformed from a lovelorn lass, to an Irish patriot in high fervor, to a grief-stricken sweetheart, and back to that lass. You won't be surprised to see dancers in the empty spaces. You'll smile at children invited to join the band as guest percussionists on a set of jigs and reels. You'll simply have a fantastic time!



Shortly after forming in September 2003, Cormorant's Fancy began playing as the house band at The Fairfield Inn. They are Music, Gettysburg! concert series favorites. They've been featured at Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania, Adams County Irish Festival, Adams County Heritage Festival, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts (State College), Fort Hunter Day (Harrisburg), Northern Appalachian Folk Festival (Indiana, PA), History Meets the Arts Weekend (Gettysburg), Huntingdon Arts Festival, McLain Celtic Festival (Carlisle), Penn-Mar Irish Festival, and Celebrate the Arts (Chambersburg) Cormorant's Fancy has entertained and taught for numerous concert series, college campuses, retirement villages, schools, churches, weddings and other events. They've presented workshops at events such as the Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering and Heart of the Arts Festival. Other venues include Fine Arts at First (Carlisle), England Acres Farm (Frederick, MD), and St. Mark Presents (Hanover), Summer Mini-Concerts (Mt. Gretna), and Memorial Park (Chambersburg). They entertain in additional eateries and pubs such as the Shamrock Restaurant (Thurmont, MD), Orchards (Chambersburg), and Hickory Bridge Farm (Ortanna). Members of the band recently performed at folk festivals in Great Britain. In addition, Cormorant's Fancy has entertained at numerous college campuses, retirement villages, schools, churches, weddings and other events. They've recorded two CDs, *An Evening at the Fairfield Inn*, and *Here and There*. A new album is scheduled for release in 2016.

The Great Cormorant is a black fishing bird native to Ireland and Great Britain. The band name reflects how this bird's name might entitle one of Chuck Krepley's fiddle tunes.

Margaret Folkemer's lilting soprano adds grace to her ballads, but she is capable of belting out driving tunes as well. Along with her accomplishments as a vocalist, penny whistle player and pianist, she has studied oboe, and she helps to arrange music for the band. She is a soloist for the Music, Gettysburg! series, sings in the Schola Cantorum of Gettysburg, and performs with Dearest Home. Margaret, who currently studies with renowned soprano Julianne Baird, graduated from McGill University's Schulich School of Music in Montreal, Quebec, where she performed in the medieval music ensemble, was featured in Gilbert and Sullivan productions and sang with Cappella Antiqua and other choirs. She performed and was a stage manager for Opera McGill. She has been a production manager and an assistant stage manager for the Green Mountain Opera Festival and a stage manager for Amherst Early Music Festival. She is the music director at St. Paul Lutheran Church, York St., Hanover, and a professional soloist.

Chuck Krepley's two great passions are music and history. Once a professional Bluegrass banjo player, he took up the fiddle in the 1980s. Chuck spent many years studying Scottish fiddle music, winning a couple of fiddle contests along the way. He has studied and performed historical music covering every period from the French & Indian War of the 1750s through the end of the American Civil War in 1865. Chuck was the music director for French and Indian War documentary film, *Washington's First War: The Battles for Fort Duquesne*, by Paladin Communications. Chuck is a member of Dearest Home. He performs and records with his own Civil War band, Home Front, and enjoys guest appearances with several other Civil War bands. He performs also with Celtic band Across the Pond. Mr. Krepley, a former research chemist, recently completed an apprenticeship as a violinmaker in York, PA. Recently retired, he devotes his time and energy to his professional music endeavors and his wife Denise. He loves the vibrant exuberance and "soul" of Irish music!

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Beth Folkemer, guitarist and vocalist, also plays mountain dulcimer and helps to arrange band material. Her love of Celtic music is the gift of her family with roots in Scotland, England, Ireland and Canada. Beth, Stephen, Margaret, Chuck Krepley and Chris Barnabei, performing as Dearest Home, research and present traditional music of PA and WV, Civil War Era, and traditional Appalachian, Celtic and English music. Beth is the music coordinator for Gettysburg's Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital series. Along with her husband Stephen, she has written *Of the Land and Seasons: A Folk-Song Paraphrase Setting of Holy Communion*; they are currently working with a Celtic setting. She sings in the Schola Cantorum.

Stephen Folkemer, who declares his all-time favorite birthday present is his Hayden Duet Concertina, also plays keyboard and lends vocal and music-arranging support to the band. Since 1979, Stephen has served as the music director at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, where he is Professor of Church Music and Cantor. He is the organist and choir director at Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg. He is founder and director of the Schola Cantorum of Gettysburg. He has composed and published numerous choral and organ works, along with writing many commissioned works for national as well as local and regional organizations. With his wife Beth he has written *Of the Land and Seasons: A Folk Song Setting for Holy Communion*. He performs also with Dearest Home.

Ricky Czar, percussionist, is the newest player for Cormorant's Fancy. Performing on bodhrán and a variety of other instruments, Ricky brings his natural, intuitive accompaniment style, as well as enthusiasm and good humor to every performance. Recently he played with the Junior ROTC for D-Day commemoration ceremonies in France. He is a freshman music student at Millersville University.

Sample Special Programs and Workshops

A Celtic and Traditional Christmas	Robert Burns Celebration
A Celtic New Year	Saint Andrew's Day Scottish Celebration
All's Celtic in Love and War	Saint Patrick's Irish Celebration
Backing Up Celtic Tunes	Scottish Fiddle Technique
Beginning Pennywhistle	Scottish History in Song
Celtic Tunes (may be limited to Irish, Scottish, etc., as desired)	Singing in Harmony
Celtic Jigs	How to Sing
Celtic Reels	Worship services: Celtic Holy Communion,
Celtic Slip Jigs and, Waltzes and Airs	Celtic Vespers, Celtic Wedding Music
Irish (and/or Scottish) Sing-Along	
Irish History in Song	

Contact

For more information, booking, and promotional materials please contact Stephen or Beth Folkemer at (717) 334-4334, (717) 253-4889, or mail@cormorantsfancy.com. Please visit Cormorant's Fancy at <http://www.cormorantsfancy.com> and www.facebook.com/cormorantsfancy. Full-length tracks and other promotional materials are available at test.cormorantsfancy.com/promo.html